Who or what is this "Me"?

In the middle of the XIX^th century, a railway was being built in Vermont. The gang foreman was a man called Phineas Gage, whose particular job was to set explosive charges to blast a path through the hills near a town called Cavendish. One of the charges went off prematurely, driving an iron bar through his head.

His body survived the damage, but when Gage later returned to work, he was a totally changed person: from being a sober, industrious individual, well-respected and obviously destined for success, he had suddenly turned into a foul-mouthed drunkard, a drifter, a failure. Obviously, a certain specific damage to a specific part of the brain had changed his personal identity.

The sudden change Gage had undergone clearly shows that the brain and mind are not at all independent; it implies that the brain is a mechanism that generates the self, rather than merely an organ which houses it. Now no one questions the fact that particular parts of the brain specialize in particular activities.

It is now generally considered that the brain is like a computer, and the mind a piece of software that runs on that computer. Yet, as in the case of Gage and numerous subsequent individuals have shown, the 'self', the individual entity can alter or implode in spite of serious brain damage.

Modern neuroscience now

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concentrates on four areas or four areas: the study of the emotions, the nature of memory, the way that brains interact with each other, and the vexed question of what precisely is Consciousness.

In considering all this, one is likely to forget perhaps the most important fact: why did the accident have to happen to Gage? Who or what initiated the accident? This is where science has to take the help of spirituality. The answer is that Gage's accident is just one of the millions of happenings which started at the time of the Big Bang, and will continue till the end of time, according to what one might consider a Cosmic Law — or, simply, the Will of God.